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FM AMEMBASSY BRATISLAVA
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INFO RUEHZG/NATO EU COLLECTIVE

C O N F I D E N T I A L BRATISLAVA 000954

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E.O. 12958: DECL: 12/08/2010
TAGS: [PREL](#) [PARM](#) [PHUM](#) [IS](#) [LE](#) [IR](#) [TU](#) [CH](#) [AF](#) [KPAL](#) [EU](#) [LO](#)
SUBJECT: SLOVAKIA'S PRE-GAERC POSITIONS DECEMBER 2006

REF: A. STATE 194456
[1](#)B. STATE 195044
[1](#)C. BRATISLAVA 925

Classified By: DCM Lawrence R. Silverman for reason 1.4 b and d.

[1](#)1. (C) China Arms Embargo: In response to ref A points, Drahomir Stos, Head of the Asia and Oceania Division of the MFA's Fourth Territorial Department, told us that the MFA treats the China arms embargo as a political issue, not a security one. Slovakia believes that it is not the right moment to lift the embargo. Slovakia strongly supports the positions of its closest Transatlantic and Asian partners--the U.S. and Japan. Stos further said Slovakia and other EU members are very appreciative of recent U.S.-EU dialogue on this sensitive issue, which has been held in the spirit of partnership rather than preaching. Slovakia defends France's right to raise the issue for healthy, internal debate. However, Stos warned that it is very dangerous to let China know the positions of individual member states. The EU must present a united front and make it clear the Chinese cannot make partial bargains with single countries.

[1](#)2. (C) China Arms Embargo, cont: Stos further said that Slovakia does not raise human rights issues in its bilateral dialogue with China. Instead, the relevant EU groups carry the water on this issue. He also said the arms embargo had been somewhat effective in reducing the role of the military in Chinese society since Tiananmen, although more needs to be done. He said that certainly the China arms embargo would eventually be lifted, the EU is on that path. From Slovakia's perspective, three conditions must be satisfied: --It is the right political atmosphere, meaning that internal conditions in China are right and the move would not threaten Taiwan. --There is a strong control mechanism (obligatory code of conduct). --There is an understanding with partners, particularly the U.S. and Japan.

[1](#)3. (C) Turkey's EU Accession (ref B): Further to her conversation with DCM (ref C), Anna Turenicova, Director of the MFA's CFSP Department, briefed PolecChief on lead negotiator for Turkey Ali Babacan's visit to Slovakia. Foreign Minister Kubis had previously had very good meetings with the Cypriot foreign minister, and had great sympathy toward Cyprus's positions. Turenicova opined that the visit by Babacan was therefore very useful in enabling Kubis to have a balanced view. Kubis gave a strong message to Babacan, saying that if Turkey wants to be a member of the club, the country must work hard to fulfill all criteria. Elites who know the long-term benefits of reforming and joining must also work hard to influence public opinion. Turenicova expected that 6-8 chapters of the Acquis would likely be frozen, but Slovakia supported forging ahead with all the others and continuing the process of accession for Turkey.

¶4. (C) Western Balkans/EU enlargement: Slovakia hopes the conclusions on enlargement will be as generous as possible, holding out promise to aspiring countries. Slovakia views "absorption capacity" as an internal issue the EU must deal with, not as an excuse to put obstacles in the way of other countries that might qualify to join. The only specific comment that EU correspondent Alexander Micovcin had was that Slovakia opposed continuing with SAA for Serbia as a "motivational tool." FM Kubis did not want to "reward" Kostunica's recent intransigent behavior. SAA should be delayed at least six months, perhaps longer.

¶5. (C) Israel-Palestinian Issues: Micovcin said the ministers will hear Solana's report but will not issue conclusions. He appreciated the detailed non-paper, and said he would make sure PolDir Lajcak read it before he briefed EU Ambassadors on 12/6.

¶6. (C) Iran and Lebanon: As a member of the UNSC, Slovakia is taking an active role in discussions in New York. There is no disagreement with U.S. positions, only questions of how to proceed.

¶7. (C) Afghanistan: PM Fico continues to consider NATO's request to transfer Slovak troops within Afghanistan. Slovakia supports the idea of an ESDP mission in Afghanistan, as long as it does not take any resources away from Kosovo.

VALLEE